

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Original) A known down divan base for a bed; the said base comprising:
a pair of lateral side panels;
a pair of end panels secured to the ends of the lateral panels by respective corner posts to provide a rectangular base;
each corner post being secured in interlocking engagement with respective adjacent side and end panels by at least one interlocking brace extending between the adjacent end and side panels.
2. (Original) A base as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the said at least one brace comprises a mattress support brace for supporting a mattress support panel with respect to the said posts.
3. (Original) A base as claimed in Claim 2 wherein the mattress support panel is wholly supported by the said mattress support braces.
4. (Currently Amended) A base as claimed in ~~any preceding claim~~ Claim 1 wherein the said side and end panels are substantially non-load bearing.
5. (Currently Amended) A base as claimed in ~~any preceding claim~~ Claim 1 wherein each corner post comprises location means for locating the post with respect to the adjacent side and end panels.

6. (Currently Amended) A base as claimed in ~~any preceding claim~~ Claim 1 wherein the side and end panels are located in abutting engagement with the respective corner posts.

7. (Currently Amended) A base as claimed in ~~any preceding claim~~ Claim 1 wherein each corner post comprises at least one brace mounting means for mounting a respective brace to the corner post.

8. (Original) A base as claimed in Claim 7 wherein the said mounting means comprises a mounting member extending substantially perpendicular to the longitudinal direction of the corner post, the mounting member having interlocking slide means for slidably mounting the brace on the mounting member and moving the brace into interlocking engagement with the adjacent side and end panels.

9. (Original) A base as claimed in Claim 8 further comprising fastening means for securing the braces to the respective mounting members.

10. (Currently Amended) A base as claimed in ~~any preceding claim~~ Claim 1 wherein each post comprises a pair of braces.

11. (Original) A base as claimed in Claim 10 wherein the braces are spaced apart and positioned at or near the ends of the post.

12. (Original) A knock down divan base for a bed; the said base comprising:
a pair of lateral side panels;
a pair of end panels secured to the ends of the lateral panels by respective corner posts to provide a rectangular base;

the said panels being substantially non-load bearing and the posts supporting substantially the whole of the bed.

13. (Original) A corner post and brace apparatus for securing together panels of a knock down divan bed base of the type having lateral side and end panels secured together to provide a generally rectangular base for supporting a mattress on a mattress support panel; the said apparatus comprising:

a corner post and a brace for securing the said corner post in interlocking engagement with respective adjacent end and side panels of a knock down bed foundation base.

14. (Currently Amended) A knock down divan bed comprising a base according to ~~any preceding claim~~ Claim 1.

15. (Currently Amended) A kit of parts for a knock down bed divan base according to ~~any one of Claims 1 to 13~~ Claim 1.

16. (Original) A corner post and brace apparatus for securing together adjacent panels of an item of furniture of the type having side and end panels to provide a generally rectangular support base; the apparatus comprising:

Preliminary Amendment

a corner post; and

a brace for securing the said corner post in interlocking engagement with respective adjacent end and side panels of an item of furniture.

17. (Original) An item of knock down furniture comprising:

a pair of lateral side panels;

a pair of end panels secured to the ends of the lateral panels by respective corner posts to provide a rectangular base;

each corner post being secured in interlocking engagement with respective adjacent side and end panels by at least one interlocking brace extending between the adjacent end and side panels.

18. (Original) A kit of parts for an item of furniture according to Claim 17.

Claims 19-20 (Canceled)